



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Sauk County



### **County characteristics**

- 848 sq. mi. population 55,225 (2000 census)
- Very diverse habitat types from the Baraboo Hills through rolling woodlands, former prairie now farmlands in the southeast to the wetlands of the Wisconsin River Valley
- Waters: 43 miles of Wisconsin River frontage, and borders Lake Wisconsin, 63 miles of trout waters, over 350 miles of warm water streams, lakes and impoundments varying in size from 5 to 600 acres for total of 2,000 acres of surface waters
- 14,121 licensed anglers and 9,848 hunters and trappers reside in Sauk County



Sauk County is home to a large number of wintering bald eagles

### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- 19,700 acres of state land which includes wildlife and fisheries areas, Devil's Lake, Mirror Lake and Natural Bridge State Parks
- 16,000 acres open to deer hunting

You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

- 1 Wildlife biologist, 1 Wildlife technician, 1 Fisheries biologist, 1 Fisheries technician, 1 Facilities Technician, 3

Conservation Wardens. These staff members also serve portions of Columbia, Dane, Iowa and Richland County

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species on public as well as private lands throughout the county.
- Manage the Dell Creek Wildlife Area as an upland habitat resource and a Class 1 trout fishery.
- Due to the healthy walleye and bass fishery, there are numerous fishing tournaments throughout the year which require permitting and monitoring
- Conservation Wardens in Sauk County get involved in large scale poaching cases due to a great public support base calling in violations. Wardens are involved in cases involving deer, turkeys, sturgeon, ginseng, eagles, endangered resources and fishing.
- Preserve and restore original prairie remnants, oak savanna, oak woodlands and lowland hardwoods on public and private lands. Established a prairie seed nursery to provide local ecotype prairie seed for local/statewide habitat projects
- Restore smallmouth bass habitat on 4 miles of Narrows Creek in last 5 years
- Maintain excellent brown trout fishery on Devil's Lake with 15% carryover of 14-18 inch fish
- The hook and line sturgeon season on the Wisconsin River in fall brings a large influx of anglers from multiple states participating in this unique fishery opportunity. Wardens respond to multiple complaints of overbagging and size limit violations.

- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as building and maintaining parking areas and improving habitat
- Fisheries biologists conduct scientifically based fisheries management activities including monitoring fish populations and angler and commercial harvest, set and evaluate harvest regulations and stocking quotas, plan and implement habitat restoration and improvement projects, review private fish stocking, fish farm and water regulation permits
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints, and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD, West Nile Virus, and eagle mortality cases in the Lower Wisconsin River.

### **County Conservation Snapshots**

- Develop and maintain Moon Valley boat access
- Wardens responded to 50 Hotline calls
- 12 Deer and Turkey registration stations are set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs

### **Fish Stocking Summary**

- 11 streams stocked annually with 40,500 brook, brown and rainbow trout
- 7 lakes stocked annually with 70,000 fish including walleye, largemouth bass, muskellunge and brown trout

### **County Success Stories**

- Over the last 5 years, more than 10 miles of permanent firebreaks have been established on public land to facilitate prescribed burning on an average 1,000+ acres. DNR crews burn on about 15 private properties per year and provide grassland seed drills and technical assistance in prairie restoration to over 30 landowners annually.
- Brown trout habitat restoration work conducted on Plain Branch of Honey Creek
- Established the 120 mile long Baraboo River as the longest river in the nation restored to free-flowing conditions through the removal of all the dams - seen as a template for river restoration across the nation.
- Resurrection of the Manley Creek native brook trout fishery through intensive habitat restoration work in cooperation with Riverland Conservancy, Wisconsin Conservation Commission and Operation Freshstart
- Wardens work with local clubs and units of government on River Clean-up Days
- Wardens work with local landowners distributing seed for habitat projects and food plots with the seed coming from Pheasants Forever and turkey stamp monies



These deer were seized after citizens and wardens worked to find the poachers responsible for shooting 16 deer and several wild turkeys in fall 2004.

### **Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities**

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management